Dear Howard, 6/6/76

Your mailing of I think the 24th, from Phila., came yesterday. I've read most of it and as you recommended, ignored the memo of Rlaston. Not worth the time. Sick kid. I think no worse. Indulged by wealthy parents.

I'll get to your excellent memo on LHO's wallet and the chain of possession on it.

First I want to get to Agent Oswald. Which means beginning with my own time problems. I've not yet been able to write the single chapter missing in the first two parts of The King Conspiracies. I had planned it for yesterday but a friend who did not have any pressing work of his own to do at his own place and did get water running into the pond again. Naturally, with that requiring doing, I abandoned my own plans to help him to the degree I could. This meant prying massive logs which he pulled them with an old car. It was too much for me. As soon as the logs were out I had to quit. But it was disconcerting and I spent the rest of the day reading and resting. I was too uncomfortable, if not terribly so, to risk trying to concentrate. Today, because of the good work of yesterday, instead of taking a morning walk, I raked the accumulation of leaves and trash out of the inlet, or half of it, and again had to rest. When I feel if id okay I'll have to finish the raking. Not only to let more water into the pond but to keep the first ~~xxxxxx~~ rain from washing the rest in. And so it goes. I just can't get help when I need it. I made a deal with one of the college buffs you do not know, a day's work for two halfsized two-drawer file cabinets and the daveno you know. He did okay and it was very helpful at an important time but it is the exception. With a replacement cost of $50.00. I have to expect this to continue. It means work will pile up and all my plans and schedules have to be considered tentative and not likely to be real.

What this means is that I can't forecast when I'll finish the draft of The King Conspiracies. I can tell you what my plans are and I know there will be an immediate interruption, court papers delayed getting here. I plan to try to complete this chapter prior to the status call on the case Thursday. Depending on what transpires then I plan to write more on the third part, the "new" evidence. The only way I can see of completing the book at all is to reorder this third part and weave in the onstructionism, telling the story of the evidence through the story of the obstructions, so I can continue writing while trying to break the barriers down.

A friend who is interested in Agent Oswald has expressed a willingness to be helpful. I told him you'd require some compensation but that you are willing to help the semester after the coming one. I'd like to be able to give him a better idea of what this will entail in money and what time you have in mind. The beginning and the end. (I'm glad you are familiar with the Davison/Penkovsky angle, as I see from the memo.) What I would really like may not suit you. It is a really definitive thing, not just going over files and removing what should be included, the normal way of a research assistant. I have man files I think you will want to read that are relevant. CIA stuff. The Coleman/Slawson retreading of the CIA's stuff. In the course of this I would hope that you'd be able to organize these into files, as I've not been able to do. Not just for me and now but for access of others in the future. While the extra amount of work is not great it can accumulate into more time. As you know I'd like you to be able to correct and edit, too.

Complicating this is the fact that I have three cases in court now, must have more when I can, and of all the pending FOIA/PA matters that can wait there is one that really is pressing: files on me. They are not irrelevant to this. Remember, when it was not known that Praeger was a CIA publisher, in early 1965 Whitewash was read there. It says LHO was an agent (p.238, beginning as I remember, line 4 for one place and elsewhere).

Our personal financial situation is going to be relieved somewhat. Montgomery County now says they will settle for the Hyattstown porperty within a month. While with a lay-aside for taxes when we put what we'll get this year on our debts and have

paid for the new roof we'll have little or nothing left, it will be an enormous relief. We will not be able to indulge extravagances but we will be able to do more copying to save time, with an occasional few copies on my machine and with any possible larger jobs commercially. If I have to put an extra $50 in a box of the paper this machine uses that will be no problem. There will be no nest egg, no plenty. But the oppression will, I hope, be ended. There may be a little on hand. Dell has offered an inadequate settlement. Jim is preparing to file suit. There would be no problem at all if Duane would like to come - if he can get a leave of absence. He could be quite helpful in so many ways, as he was with Post Mortem. More because of what he learned then.

By the way, we have a new sofa/bed in the spare room. And I've obtained but do not yet have here a cabinet for all the index cards. What a thing he could do with that if hedd care to! But I'll have more room in it long before you can come on this. (I do hope you can come sooner. On this digression let me tell you for your publisher that there are other TV talk shows I forget to tell you about. One is Take it from Here on the NBC station. Panorama on Metromedia. AM Washington on ABC's.)

What I would really like to be able to do is get this done and while I'm trying to find commerical interest have I'll start retyoing it for my own printing. I'd be willing to go into debt for it. The book will sell. However, if I am to do this the retyping and indexing must be completed prior to the beginning of the tax season or during this year. Before the end of thebyear I'll also have some reprinting to do, at least PW and WW I. On both I'm down to damaged copies. On WW I'll laso have to get new half-tones. I'd like to add "new material" so the copyright can be extended.

Here I'm saying, too, that there is no respite of any kind ahead.

And that completing Agent Oswald will not be easy.

I don t recall if you have read what I did years ago. I can send you a copy if you have not? I know it now needs some changes but I don t think they are that major. Walter finally foind the ribbon copy. He and Bantam's fiction editor had gone for it but they could not interest Bantam. I know I have at least one carbon, returned by Jim Schmitt before he suicided.

If there is more you'd like to understand, ask.

Because I now have to get back to the ditch I'll have less time for your memo.

Whether or not you realize it you have crossed over into work I did in O in NO, the Martello slip. I'll file this memo in a file I know I have because of space problems, "Oswald-Porperty." After that book was out it suddenly struck me that those numbers I could not understand having to do with garments might be metric sizes. I've never checked. This does not explain anything except, perhaps, the numbers. However, I suggest this kind of simplification to you about that pack-rat, LHO. Why could not the Ga-Jo Hotel be Japanese?

Do you know of anything he ever through away? If he had this in his wallet when he was given the phone number in Russia, could he not have written that number on this card?

In any analysis of the N.O. end I think you should begin with the assumption there was another FBI agent with Quigley. Add what withholding this can mean. I think it was Kaack. Add also what LHO did with this arrest. I said it in WW and in O in NO.

On your 3: I have no doubt that LHO made this list when he was preparing to leave the USSR. There is no doubt about the gun because there is no other gun he could ever have sold. Only that Russian shotgun. I think there is other proof he did. (This gets into areas where, as I've indicated above, you'll want to read some of the recent stuff, the CIA's and State's checking out of reality and practise in the USSR. It all worked, even the unlikely.)

You conclude saying you've made no effort to make sense out of the Martello slip. In the future I recommend this, beginning where I left of and critically of it. I'll be using this again in Agent Oswald because it was in his pocket when he got himself arrested and it all points to the USSR. Or, as in WW: establishing a cover.